ing exports. The extent of success of the scheme can be judged from the increasing number of applications received. the licences issued and the export obligations undertaken the Scheme.

(c) There is no proposal for further expansion of existing categories of licences under the Duty Exemption Scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Review of Exim Policy / Procedure is a continuous process, and changes are made in the Policy and Procedure as and when considered necessary in public interest keeping in view the suggestions received from the trade and industry.

Contracts for Export of Basmati and Non-Basmati Rice

55. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has received orders for export of 0.5 m.t. of basmati rice and 2.5 m.t. of non-basmati rice;

(b) whether it is also a fact that poor infrastructure and delay at ports may hamper exports; and

(c) if so, steps being taken to improve these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) As per the EXIM Policy both basmati and non-basmati rice are freely exportable without any quantity and price restrictions. There is also no obligation on part of the exporters to register their contracts with any designated agency. The data on export contracts signed by the exporters is therefore not maintained. However, upto August, 1995, 14,56,276 MT of rice (Basmati and non-basmati) valued at Rs. 1186.74 crores was exported.

(b) and (c) Expansion of exports has brought into focus infrastructural issues. Resort to any specific port in excessive measure for movement of the bulk of foodgrains of export cargo tends to cause congestion. Export of foodgrains (including rice), therefore, is being arranged through various ports, major and minor. Meetings have also been held with Ministry of Surface Transport and Ministry of Railways to coordinate movement of export cargo.

Inclusion of Medical Profession Under Consumer Protection Act

56. SHRI S. MUTHUMANI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to include the Medical Profession under the Consumers' Protection Act; and

(b) what is Government's reaction with regard to the recent judgement of the Supreme Court in respect of Medical Profession?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DEPTT. OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM) (SHRI VENOD SHARMA): (a) Medical Profession is already covered under the Consumer Protection Act, 1986.

(b) The judgement recently given by the Supreme Court clarifies the position of the medical profession in relation to the Consumer Protection Act.

भारतीय खाद्य निगम की बढ़ती हुई प्रचालन लागत

57. **श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार:** क्या खाद्य मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या गत कुछ वर्षों के दौरान भारतीय खाद्य निगम की प्रचालन लागत में निरन्तर वृद्धि हो रही है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो 1989-90 से ऐसी वृद्धि का मद-वार और वर्ष-वार ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

खाद्य मंत्री (श्री अजीत सिंह): (क) जी, हां।

(ख) भारतीय खाद्य निगम की प्रचालन लागत में मुख्यतया वसूली प्रासंगिक खर्चे, वितरण लागत और बफर स्टाक की रख-रखाव लागत शामिल है। प्रति क्विंटल दरें उपाबन्धों में दर्शायी गयी हैं। [देखिए परिशिष्ट 175 अनुपत्र सं० 7, 8 और 9]

(ग) भाग (ख) के उत्तर को ध्यान में रखते हुए प्रश्न नहीं उठता। दरों में वृद्धि के लिए मुख्य कारण है— सामान्य मुद्रास्फीति, न्यूनतम समर्थन मूल्यों में वृद्धि, ब्याज दरों और भाड़ा दरों में परिवर्तन।

58. *[Cancelled]*

Control on essential commodities

59. SHRI R. MARGABANDU: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in southern region of India til oil is available at a cost of Rs. 70 per kg. and dal at a rate of Rs. 35 per kg.; and

(b) if so, what steps Government pro pose to take to control the prices of these commodities of daily use in a big way?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) As per available information the wholesale prices of til oil during the year 1995 were ranging from Rs. 33.75 to Rs. 54.20 per kg. and dal from Rs. 20.20 to Rs. 31.00 per Kg. in most parts of the southern India.

The Government has been monitoring the prices of pulses and edible oils on a continuous basis. Edible oils are being imported on a regular basis to reduce the gap between demand and supply.

Because of wide gap between demand and supply, import of pulses has been placed on OGL with 5% reduced Customs duty. Import of pulses range between 4-6 lakh tonnes per annum against a gap of 2-3 million tonnes between demand and supply and hence this is not adequate to bring down the prices of pulses in the domestic market. Government is, however, taking all possible steps to increase production of pulses and oil seeds.

Committee on welfare measures for Beedi Workers

60. SHRI G. PRATHAPA REDDY: SHRI T. VENKATRAM REDDY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Committee under his Ministry enquired into the welfare measures of Beedi Workers;

(b) whether officials of his Ministry gave evidence before such a Committee;

(c) whether officials of his Ministry favour cigarettes over beedi;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) No Sir. However, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Labour & Welfare held a detailed discussion last year on the welfare of beedi workers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Complaints regarding export of poor quality tea

61. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: SHRI SANJAY DALMIA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that complaints have been received from some countries regarding export of poor quality tea to them;

(b) the total quantity of tea rejected together with its market value, country-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to boost the export of best quality tea from the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) No complaints have been received in the